

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Applicant's Attorney (Mr. Ameet Patel with Reg. No L0, 353), on September 15, 2008.
3. The application has been amended as follows:
4. **Cancelled claims 13 and 14.**

Drawings

5. The drawings were received on July 01, 2003. The Examiner accepts these drawings.

Reasons for Allowance

6. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.
The prior art independently or in combination fails to teach or suggest, image data processing apparatus and method comprising (a) the second apparatus which receives said image data and-sender information from said first apparatus, effects data processing on the said image data received to acquire an embedded stegano data that cannot be recognized visually, the second apparatus sending the acquired stegano data

as a result of processing to the first apparatus in accordance with said destination information, said second apparatus having a high processing capability for processing stegano data in combination into other elements and features of claims 1 and 7; (b) a data sending unit which sends the image data entered to the second apparatus with destination information of the first apparatus as a destination of a result of data processing to the image data taken to acquire an embedded stegano data that cannot be recognized visually, a result receiving unit which receives the result of the data processing to the image data taken from the second apparatus in combination into other elements and features of claims 12.

7. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

8. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Yoshiura et al (U. S. 6,131,162) disclose digital data authentication method.

Ehrmann et al (U S 7,013,023 B2) disclose method and device for sending and receiving digital images using an image watermark for decoding.

Contact Information

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to ABOLFAZL TABATABAI whose telephone number is (571) 272-7458.

The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Brian Werner, can be reached at (571) 272-7401. The fax phone number for organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Abolfazl Tabatabai/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624

September 15, 2008

